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A glimpse into Ukrainian culture

Ukrainian dancers Jenn Droniuk and Paul Droniuk perform a traditional dance at Kolomeijka for Ukraine, a celebration of Ukrainian music, food and dance at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton on Saturday, Feb. 25. Guests were treated to a presentation of traditional Ukrainian dance and food in an effort to raise money for Cobblestone Freeway Foundation, an Edmonton-based not-for-profit supporting Ukraine and its culture. See more photos on page 4. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*

Lawyer asks county to defer condo decision

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

An environmental group has asked Haliburton County to halt all development on Grass Lake and to reject a proposal to build condominiums there.

The Friends of Grass Lake brought their concerns to county council when it met Feb. 22 to discuss Harburn Holdings' pitch to build 88 condominiums on Grass Lake at Peninsula Road and County Road 21 in Dysart et al.

Dysart previously approved a land use amendment for the area. It was brought to the upper tier level to ensure all provincial, county, and municipal planning policies were adhered to regarding the pro-

posed development.

County council deferred its decision for a variety of reasons until March 22.

Carolyn Langdon of Friends of Grass Lake [FOGL] said the group would like Haliburton County to ensure the property remains classified as rural and to protect those wetlands for the benefit of all residents.

"Existing studies and indicators show a lake in distress," Langdon said. "It's undoubtedly the most polluted lake in the county, and further studies will confirm this."

She urged local politicians work with concerned residents to lobby Queen's Park to enact tougher development restrictions for the highlands.

see PROPERTY page 2

Invasive pests should be our biggest concern, says HFWR manager

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

If we don't prioritize invasive species as a problem, we may not have an environment left to be worried about.

Invasive pests should be at the top of our list of concerns as Ontarians, said Malcolm Cockwell, managing director at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve and president of Forests Ontario.

"You've got to make sure there's an environment to protect in the first place," Cockwell said. "If you're worried about climate change, you need to be worried

about this. This is going to be the defining environmental issue for the next 100 years. If we don't prioritize invasive pests, there will be no environment."

He said no matter who you are or how you enjoy the Highlands, you should be concerned about invasive pests.

"Obviously, I am looking at it through the lens of a forester and a forest manager, but different people would prioritize different invasive pests," Cockwell said. "Recreationalists would probably be really concerned about Giant Hogweed or possibly Garlic Mustard or Purple Loose-

see BEECH page 5

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County defers decision on Grass Lake condo development

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County council will take some time before it decides the fate of a housing development on Grass Lake in Dysart.

Harburn Holdings wants to build 88 condominiums and a commercial property on Peninsula Road and County Road 21 on Grass Lake in Dysart et al. Space will also be set aside for affordable housing.

The lower tier municipality has already approved a land-use bylaw amendment of the property pending Haliburton County's go-ahead. During its regular meeting Feb. 22, county council deferred its decision for a variety of reasons until March 22.

Stephen Stone, the county's director of planning, told council that he recommended the amendment be approved. He said the county's role in the process was to ensure Dysart adhered to provincial planning legislation and both the county's and municipality's Official Plans when evaluating the development.

"As it stands, the county is the approval authority," he said. "The final action to allow this amendment to Dysart Official Plan to occur."

Then, later: "What was of interest to us at the county level was ensuring that there was a fulsome review of provincial policy, county policy, as well as local Official Plan policy."

Stone said the township met all those obligations and the various required expert reports have been properly peer reviewed. As such, there's no reason for Haliburton

County to stand in the way of Harburn Holdings' plans. So it's a done deal, yeah?

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, took umbrage with the limited time county councillors had to go through the provided information required to inform each of their votes.

Carter said he and his colleagues had to mine 486 pages of information to "separate the wheat from the chaff" mere days before the council meeting.

"I now know what the concentration of beryllium is in some of the wells, and I'm not really certain that's important to making our decision," he said.

Councillors received their agenda packages at noon on a Friday before a long weekend. He said that gives them less than a day to inform their decision.

"I'll state categorically up front that I certainly won't be voting on any motion today because there just hasn't been enough time for me to absorb it," he said.

Concern for the environment and housing drew Carter to municipal politics.

"Somehow this project seems to have pitted those two against one another," he said.

He realizes his role at the county level is to vote on the issue. But, at the same time, he said, he has to weigh that against the concerns of his constituents in Minden Hills.

"Lots of my constituents have issues with this," Carter said. "I'm just trying to get enough information to be able to say one or the other. I just don't think I'm going to get it in the next 30 minutes or so."

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, Algonquin Highlands' deputy mayor, shared Carter's concern about the limited time to get educated on the issue.

"It is helpful to read it all," she said. "It is difficult to

sort of sort out what parts of it applies to the decision for this table versus the decision that was faced by the municipality."

Dailloux wondered what information was included as background details and what information in the agenda package was actually necessary to inform a decision.

"If this is a decision we take on the basis of planning justification only, of which the ticks have already been filled in all the boxes, then that's a very different story," she said. "And perhaps I'd be prepared to proceed today with a vote."

"But if things like environmental protection, stormwater management fall to this table to consider, I have to say I'm alongside Coun. Carter that I believe I'd need some more time to digest some of those things."

Coun. Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, said he understands the condos will be serviced by Dysart's municipal sewer. But the proponent is to run a means of water provision as opposed to using municipal wells to provide water.

Ryall asked what would happen should the proponent no longer be involved in the property?

Stone said there would indeed be a private proponent-established on-site water system.

"Typically, what you'll find is responsibility agreements are entered into at the municipal level," Stone said.

Such agreements ensure total replacement of the privately maintained systems if the proponent walks away.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, suggested issues such as municipal stormwater management doesn't fall under the county's purview.

see TIME page 3

Property owners concerned about water quality and quantity

from page 1

"The Highlands deserve special consideration because of the fragile nature of our environment and the important ecological services we provide to downstream com-

munities," she said.

Poor land use decision will endanger the region's clean water and intact forests, she said.

Catherine Swift is also a member of the group. She said there's more people opposed to development on Grass Lake than just those who are in FOGL.

They gathered more than 900 signatures last fall on a petition against the condo development.

"Our petition process, it really revealed a depth of distress and resignation that people across the board felt in the face of little municipal oversight to protect the environment," Swift said.

It was clear that a special meeting last fall about the development was "a sham," she said, and added that approval for the housing build was likely a foregone conclusion.

"It doesn't give one confidence in government decisions in future," she said. "We're certainly not opposed at all to multi-density housing. But this is the largest residential development to come before your council."

They have a problem with a development of Harburn's size being "shoehorned into a very narrow strip of land adjacent to one of the last remaining wetlands within the settlement area of Haliburton."

Simply put, Swift said the land in question was designated in the Official Plan as rural and an environmentally protected zone for a reason.

"A wall of condos and commercial development adjacent to a wetland will have serious repercussions for the entire Kashagawigamog watershed," Swift said.

Raj Kehar, planning lawyer from the firm WeirFoulds, spoke on behalf of Haliburton Veterinary Services. His client's land is located near the condo development on Peninsula Road. His client operates an animal hospital and clinic on the property, but there are also rental properties.

There are significant concerns about the impact the development will have on the quality and quantity of water available to the clinic and housing tenants, should it be allowed to proceed.

As such, Kehar asked county council to defer by a minimum of three months its decision on the proposed development to allow more time for an agreement between his client and the developer that addresses those concerns about well water.

"There is a private well on our client's property, and it was pump-tested in April 2020 by the developer in support of their development application," Kehar said. "Immediately following that pump test, our client experienced sediment in their drinking water supply."

He said the initial safe drinking water was turned to "brown sludge almost immediately." He said water quality issues are continuing.

Kehar's client has also reached out to MTE Consult-

ing, a professional independent hydrogeologist. Those consultants will peer review Harburn Holdings' water reports and peer review the peer review of reports prepared for Dysart.

"It's a very focused analysis," he said. "And I think it's important that focused analysis be given some time to occur and for a consultations and discussions to be had between our clients hydrogeologist and the developer's hydrogeologist."

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said county council will consider the deferment request.

Councillor Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said he'd be willing to take another 30 days, but he doesn't think three months is necessary.

Tony Usher, a planning consultant representing Harburn Holdings, said Harburn Holdings is committed to ensuring there will be a clean and secure drinking water supply for the vital business.

Usher said Dysart council heard much in support for and against the development. The municipality got feedback from its own staff and made a decision.

Any comments and questions that required clarification was previously addressed by Usher or the proponent, he said.

"To the extent these same points have been made again in the (agenda attachments), I believe that we have already answered them," Usher said. "So I'm not going to take up your time today by plowing that ground over again."

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she understands that, in the interest of time, Usher couldn't address all the concerns broached by FOGL's representatives.

"But I do think that there was an opportunity there to address some of those concerns," she said. "I'm not sure at what stage they'll be addressed now, which is unfortunate from my perspective."

As people tend to choose the shortest route to a destination, Dailloux asked Usher if there is going to be a physical barrier to prevent people from accessing the development's wetland area to get to the lake.

"Friends of Grass Lake made many, many statements, basically all of which they have made before, and which we have already addressed in submissions to Dysart, probably in about 25 pages of letters (of response) and in many, many comments that were I made at the Dysart public meeting," Usher said.

Regarding the shoreline, people can't access most of the highwater mark. There is a single spot by which the shoreline can be accessed, he said. But there are cattails that act as a barrier to protect wetland.

"Beyond that, the water is essentially inaccessible," he said.

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Above, Sammi Giannoccaro was the grand prize winner at the West Guilford Snow Shuffle Jan 26th. Pictured with Sammi, centre, are Carm Sawyer and Greg Cooper, both organizers of the popular event. Sammi won \$4,740 and generously donated \$1,200.00 back to the community centre.

Snow Shuffle supports WG Community Centre

After a two year break due to COVID-19, the West Guilford Snow Shuffle fundraiser was once again a roaring success as all 200 tickets to the popular fundraiser were sold three weeks prior to the event held Saturday, Feb. 25. Participants were able to enjoy a sunny but cold day on their snowmobiles, have lunch on Kushog Lake, and then sled back to the West Guilford Community Centre for supper. Prizes generously donated by local businesses were awarded to all participants, with the grand prize of \$4,740 dollars going to Sammi Giannoccaro. Sammi happily donated \$1,200.00 back to the Community Centre. After all of the prizes were awarded, participants enjoyed a dance for the remainder of the evening. The popular fundraiser has been in existence since 1981, and has been a major annual fundraiser for the Community Centre. The event raised \$4,400 for the centre. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

Time needed to digest info, say councillors

from page 2

management doesn't fall under the county's purview.

"Specific to the mandate of county council, our review at the staff level really focuses on consistency with provincial policy statement and then conformity with the policies within the county Official Plan," Stone said.

He said all the attached documents in the more than 450 pages have been included for the edification of councillors. Simply, it's to better illustrate how the proponent and Dysart have adhered to the necessary provincial, county, and municipal policies.

"The documentation that I've provided, I hope, would help support our analysis so that you had the comfort to make those decisions," Stone said.

Ryall said there's a need for housing in Haliburton County. It's just non-negotiable, he said.

"Do you have a question, Coun. Ryall?" said Daniels.

"The housing justifies itself. The economy justifies itself. The taxation justifies itself," Ryall said. "But the

over-400 pages doesn't."

He listed four documents in the myriad of information given to councillors as the points of issue that needs their attention.

"The rest are FYI," he said. "Is there any way, shape, or form that we can get a consolidated report from you (Stone) indicating, as Coun. Dailloux said, the things that we are accountable for making decisions on as opposed to all this stuff, which is important but has absolutely nothing to do with our decision-making."

Coun. Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said issues like stormwater management isn't part of the county council's decision.

"There are a lot of concerns," Fearrey said. "Councillors hear that. I hear it and I know there's concerns."

"But, on the other hand, who are we to listen to? Are we going to listen to professionals or are we going to listen to people who don't want the development?"

Tony Usher, a planning consultant on behalf of Harburn Holdings, said the Official Plan amendment represents good planning and is in the public interest. The

county's own staff has said the application is supported by work done by qualified professionals. And, except for an archeological study, that work has been independently peer reviewed.

"No contrary technical reports have been put forward," Usher said.

Then later: "My client and I continue to remain ready to try to accommodate resident concerns and improve mutual understanding," he said. "The door is always open."

Danielsen said she's very much in support of protecting wetlands and lakes.

"Of course we need housing, we need it badly, but I am a bit concerned about the fact that there is some commercial component to this particular development," she said.

"I'm concerned that the lake is at capacity. And I'm really concerned and ticked off to no end to hear about the amount of work that's been done to clearcut the property to change the water courses."

Haliburton County raises tax levy 2.79%

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County's warden isn't happy with some of the cuts to the 2023 capital and operating budget.

The upper tier council approved a spending plan during its regular public meeting Feb. 22 that raised the tax levy over last year by 2.79 per cent.

Algonquin Highlands will kick in \$4.3 million, Dysart et al. will be billed \$8.3 million, while Highlands East and Minden Hills will contribute \$3.1 million and \$5.7 million respectively.

Warden Liz Daniels, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, listed her objections of omissions to the new spending plan. She prefaced her objections by saying she believed nobody on council would agree with her nixing the recommendations.

Danielsen spoke against cutting \$275,000 from the affordable housing reserve budget. She also thought ill of removing \$105,000 from the shoreline bylaw budget.

"But those are just my personal feelings," she said.

The cuts came in a second draft of the county's budget. The first draft had a tax

rate increase of 6.24 per cent.

Council removed a \$10,000 Rail Trail transfer to reserve for future capital. Also removed was \$50,000 from Community Transportation project funding.

"This will not preclude council from investigating transportation options as reserve funds could be used for any expenses incurred in 2023," reads the report from the county's Committee of the Whole which tabled the budget.

Council approved a decrease of \$20,000 for economic development projects. Reserve cash will be available should any development opportunities arise in the year.

Council removed \$50,000 from the budget that would have gone toward a transportation master plan.

Also among the omissions was a \$34,325 housing transfer to reserve for future capital needs of existing units. This brings the level of funding for capital projects to maintain existing social housing units to the amount being requested in 2023. Staff believe there are sufficient funds in reserve (\$431,504) should capital funding requests exceed the reduced sustainability budget allocation in future years.

Council removed \$46,500 for climate change initiatives.

Kolomeijka: A celebration

Cobblestone Freeway founder Vincent Rees discusses his foundation's work with Ukraine and its culture at Kolomeijka for Ukraine, a celebration of Ukrainian music, food and dance at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton on Saturday, Feb. 25. Guests were treated to a presentation of traditional Ukrainian dance and food in an effort to raise money for Cobblestone Freeway Foundation, an Edmonton-based not-for-profit supporting Ukraine and its culture. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo



Guests buy 50-50 tickets in support of the Cobblestone Freeway Foundation.



A dance group based in Ukraine says "Thank you, Haliburton" in a pre-recorded message Saturday night.

Legal opinion sought on short-term rental bylaws

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Regulating short-term rentals in Haliburton County will be a two-stage process.

County council evaluated the nuts and bolts of a system to register, license, and enforce short-term rental businesses during a special meeting on the topic Feb. 27. Council will return to the issue after they get a legal opinion on some bylaw questions.

The need to regulate such businesses has been an issue in the lower tier municipalities for some time. The previous county council hired a consultant, J.L.Richards out of North Bay, to explore the county's options.

Scott Ovell, director of economic development and tourism, said regulating short-term rentals should be viewed as an "evolutionary" process.

"It's probably not going to be perfect when we start it," Ovell said. "Staff just have to be continually evaluating what's working, what's not working, and come back to council with recommended changes."

Stephen Stone, the county's director of planning, said much of the consultant's focus was directed by the previous county council. It was to consider how the Lake of Bays handle the short-term rental issue.

The structure that's being recommended consists of two bylaws: A registration bylaw and a licensing bylaw.

The registration bylaw will give the

county a sense of how many such businesses are operating. The licensing requirement will serve to replace the registration bylaw.

"The two are somewhat similar sort of at the start," Stone said. "The registration bylaw is very similar definitions that're carried over to the licensing. But the licensing bylaw really is, shall we say, the foundation for the regulation of short-term rentals in the county."

It sets a fee structure and the requirements for being a business operator. It establishes performance standards, he said. There'll be a demerit points system to discourage nuisance behaviour by renters.

"If you have ongoing nuisances with noise or other disturbances related to your short-term rental business, you could lose demerit points," Stone said. "Repeat offenders actually can go so far as to lose their ability to operate through the licensing system."

Warden Liz Danielsen, who is also mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said the county needs to have a hand in short-term rentals. And that's apparent by the concerns expressed by the public, she said.

Councillor Bob Carter, mayor of Minden Hills, said 90 days should be sufficient for short-term rental operators to register their operation with the county.

"We have no idea if there are 500 (or) 1,000 or 2,000 of these out there," Carter said. "The only way we're going to be able to do it is to set a hard deadline."

"It's not like anybody who out there is going to find this a surprise that we're doing it."

Coun. Murray Fearrey, mayor of Dysart et al, said allowing longer than 90 days wouldn't give enough time to get the plan off the ground this year.

"And I think people are expecting action on this," he said.

"Yeah, they are," Danielsen said.

"In today's world with computers and all kinds of communication ... I don't know that we even need to go that far [90 days]," Fearrey said.

Coun. Lisa Schell, the deputy mayor of Minden Hills, said allowing six months as Danielsen suggested would bring the process into the summer. And that's too long.

"Ninety days is a good idea," she said. "I think it'll give us a really good indicator of perhaps how many [short-term rental properties] there are within the county."

"Anybody who is interested will [register] in that time and it will give staff enough time, I think, to actually get the bylaw put in place."

Ovell said there were 559 properties advertised in January 2022. In July 2022, there were 823 properties advertised for rent in Haliburton County.

In terms of a fee structure, the average daily rate in January was \$234. In July, the average daily rate jumped to \$341.

Through his own research as a fictitious renter, Carter said he was quoted rates much higher than what Ovell found. Carter said there wasn't a daily rate lower than \$500 when he enquired about renting a property for June.

"Many of them were well over \$1,000 per night," Carter said. "I had made a request for six people. Just to get an idea of what was going to come back."

Fearrey asked what would happen if an individual is injured or killed at a county-licensed rental property on a private road in winter.

"I think that's a major [legal] issue for us," he said.

Short-term rentals are proposed to be sorted into three classes based on number of establishments operated by owners and number of nights rented per year. Fees range from \$250 for a Class A License (the operation of one property) to \$750 for a Class C STR License (the operation of three or more properties).

County council seemed mired on the question of whether there should be two or three license classes.

Stone suggested the rate and license class be dictated by such factors as length of rentals and number of people.

Danielsen said maybe the number of bedrooms should determine license class.

"Frankly, I don't really care about the number of people there," Carter said. "I guess what I'm saying is that if I've got one unit and I'm renting it for less than 30 days, that's very much the definition of somebody who uses their cottage most of the time themselves."

He said those property owners may likely rent to friends every now and again. Another class of operator would be the person who bought the cottage solely as a money-making venture.

"It's the number of days," Carter said.

He said a license's duration should be two or three years. That'll cut down on administration costs, he said.

Beech Bark Disease likely to kill 10% of trees

from page 1

rife. Waterfront owners would probably be concerned about something called Spiny Waterflea, Japanese Knotweed, or another aquatic pest that are likely to come in."

Either way, he said, there's no shortage of pests to be concerned about on a recreational level and by the affect it will have on our ecosystems.

There's also no easy way to address invasive species.

Back in December, Dysart council heard a proposal to eradicate the five known patches of Giant Hogweed in the municipality; a weed that produces sap which can cause severe burns on skin that comes in contact with sunlight.

Total eradication would take multiple years and \$55,000, and it was a debate council decided to defer until the budget was settled.

Cockwell highlighted the two invasive species he is most concerned about as a forester.

"The big one that's already here is Beech Bark Disease. Once it's fully run its course, it will probably have killed 10 to 15 per cent of the trees in Haliburton County. That's a massive impact from that one alone. It's already halfway done doing its damage in Haliburton County."

As stated by the government of Ontario, Beech Bark Disease is a combination of beech scale insects and a canker fungus that together "cause severe cankering, deformation of the stem, and eventually tree mortality."

The insects make punctures in beech

tree bark, allowing for fungal spores to enter the tree. The fungus usually kills a large beech tree within 10 years.

Cockwell said there are two main effects of Beech Bark Disease that are of concern.

The first is that the disease will kill the majority of beech trees in the area.

"That's concerning because beech is an important tree. They're common, they're everywhere, and trees are sequestering carbon, generating oxygen, and all kinds of good things, so inherently it's bad if they die, but it's particularly problematic because beech is the biggest producer of mast in forests around here, and mast is food that animals eat," Cockwell said.

Mast is the fruit, nuts, and seeds produced by trees.

"Beech produces beech nuts that humans can eat too, but at various times of year, beech nuts can account for the majority of caloric intake for some animals including bears. If you start to think through the repercussions of the death of the beech and the loss of the Mast, then you've taken away half of the food of the bears at certain times of year. What's going to end up happening? Human/bear conflict, among other issues," he said.

Cockwell said nothing can be done about this problem, and he thinks beech will never be a commercial species in Ontario.

However, the second issue with the presence of Beech Bark Disease can be addressed.

The second problem will likely start five years in the future.

"Beech tends to reproduce vegetatively

as opposed to sexually, so most of the beech saplings that you see in the forest did not grow from a seed. They grow as a root sucker from the roots of another tree, so they're clones of each other basically."

Cockwell said this in itself is not a problem.

"The problem is that when you have a huge mortality event among beech, they get stressed. When they get stressed, they will reproduce, so they will send up lots and lots of root suckers into the forest. What you end up with is a huge amount of little beech saplings being created in the forest which prevents other trees from growing, so it reduces diversity, and then those little beech saplings are destined to die before they become trees because they will get beech Bark Disease," he said.

Cockwell said this results in the formation of beech thickets that are a dead area where nothing else can grow.

"They are essentially a desert."

Like many invasive species now present in Ontario, Beech Bark Disease originates in Europe, but he said the insect-fungus complex is not harmful to European beech trees because they are a slightly different species.

"The problem is that here, the beech did not evolve with this, so they are very susceptible and there is no protection against it."

To help this issue in Ontario, Cockwell said harvesting methods that can encourage the growth of other tree species on top of beech can be successful. But even these solutions have some downsides.

"It's not pretty because it often involved doing a hardwood clear cut, but in doing

a clear cut, you're able to get other species like maple, cherry, ash, and oak to grow back," he said.

Cockwell said the second way to prevent the long term impact is with herbicides which would kill all beech tree suckers which allows other species to become established.

Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve has experimented with both and has had success, but said they are both very costly.

The second invasive species Cockwell is most concerned about is an insect called Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

"That one's not here yet, but it likely will be soon. It's been noted in Southern Ontario, and if it gets established here, it will kill virtually all of Hemlock, which would represent another ten per cent of our forests. It would be particularly bad because the habitat types where Hemlock occurs are very sensitive and very important to most wildlife; birds and ungulates in particular," Cockwell said.

He said although the subject is disheartening because there are no easy solutions, and sometimes there are no solutions at all, he hopes invasive pests will come to the forefront of environmental concerns.

"Nobody likes to talk about invasive pests because it's a nasty subject. There's no heroes in the world of invasive species. We need to get over that as a society. Everybody needs to realize that this is going to affect everyone in a major way, and the impact will be shared by everybody," he said.

2022 Remembrance Day Literary and Poster Contest results

Poem contest

Senior (Grades 10, 11, 12)
1st Sophie Longo
Intermediate (Grades 7, 8, 9)
1st - Alivia Brown, 2nd - Azarra Stewart, 3rd - Evelyn Vanderstarre

Essay contest

Intermediate (Grades 7, 8, 9)
1st - Annika Gervais, 2nd - Macie Bjelis, 3rd - Alivia Brown
Junior (Grades 4, 5, 6) 1st - Brooklyn Bjelis

Colour poster contest

Intermediate (Grades 7, 8, 9)
1st - Alivia Brown, 2nd - Annika Gervais, 3rd - DinekeVerstegeIsa

Junior (Grades 4, 5, 6)
1st - Jordan Braun, 2nd - Mia McCarty
Primary (Grades 1, 2, 3)
1st - Luna Schur, 2nd - Campbell Adlam, 3rd - Mikayla Keller

Black and white poster contest

Senior (Grades 10, 11, 12)
1st - Isabel Hill
Intermediate (Grades 7, 8, 9)
1st - Alivia Brown, 2nd - Mazey Robinson, 3rd - Connor Iles
Junior (Grades 4, 5, 6)
1st - Claire Lynch, 2nd - Anika Suke, 3rd - Claire Hamilton
Primary (Grades 1, 2, 3) 1st - Melcolm Lynch, 2nd - Everly Cox

THOSE OTHER movies

MOVIE NIGHTS

THOSE OTHER movies

Thurs, Mar. 9, *Buffy St-Marie: Carry It On*
Captivating doc about legendary musician/activist
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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

The kids are alright

YOU MAY have noticed, but we feature kids and youth a lot in the *Echo* and the *Times*. Our papers are usually full of smiling young faces and success stories to go with them.

That's exactly the way we want it.

Of course every generation is important, every person in the county is important, and everyone contributes in different ways to making our little world in the Highlands turn, but, and I'm going to sound like every graduation speech ever, youth are the future.

According to Statistics Canada, only 14 per cent of the population in Haliburton village is under the age of 19.

Thirty-four per cent are retirement age: 65 or older.

Fifty-two per cent are 55 and older.

That data is pretty skewed.

It means we don't have enough young people to fill jobs when the 52 per cent retires in a few years.

We see this in "now hiring" and "help wanted" signs taped to storefront windows.

It means we don't have enough young people here to provide care for the population, especially seniors.

We see this in the list of hundreds in the county still waiting to be assigned to a family doctor.

Like I said in my editorial a couple of weeks ago, it means there aren't any young volunteers to carry on with necessary charitable events and programs.

When I was in high school here, I remember being one of the few who said they wanted to end up back in the county.

I can't nail down the exact reasons why most others couldn't wait to

leave, but I can remember that many felt bored, wanted a change, and, especially, didn't think there was enough opportunity here for them to carry out their career goals.

I felt the same way about the last one. I wanted to live here because I'm a home body, but I never thought I'd be able to get a fulfilling job for myself.

I went away to school thinking I had to sacrifice living in the place I loved the most to have a career in the field I wanted.

If that's how I felt as someone who wanted to stay, think about how

easy it was for some of my classmates to go and not look back if they found what they were looking for elsewhere.

That's definitely not what we want youth to think.

Of course it's important for kids to spread their wings, but we want them to feel like Haliburton County is a place for them to be enabled to do so.

After speaking with Jenn Mills, the new principal at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, I felt so uplifted.

What her and the other staff at HHSS are trying to do is create just that for students: an environment for each individual to thrive in, no matter their strengths or interests.

She graduated from HHSS, went to post-secondary school, and came back to try and nurture the same environment that she loved so much.

Making our kids feel seen, heard, and celebrated is the best start to making Haliburton a welcoming place for the younger generation.



vivian collings

Editorial



Morning light peeks through snow-covered trees. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Adverse conditions

WE'VE ALL got to do things that make us happy.

We are all different, and we are all evolving. I think we are all happiest when we are doing something we love and something that involves our senses.

Maybe we are listening to music we enjoy, or tasting a delicious homemade meal, or watching a sunrise or a sunset or a favourite sporting event, or maybe we are playing with a child or grandchild. We are happy when we feel connected and when our senses are engaged.

I have a dog that I walk once, twice, sometimes three times a day. It honestly keeps me smiling and active every day. Being in nature surrounded by beauty makes me happy. I'm not the only dog walker out in the area. I often run into other people.

One day a few weeks ago, I was enjoying a walk and could hear someone singing loudly. I smiled and carried on. I heard the singer a few days in a row and began to wonder who it was. The person sounded very enthusiastic.

Several days later I ran into Harry Morgan, minister of the United Church and long-time neighbour. He was singing at the top of his lungs as he walked his two dogs. In passing, he said to me, "Don't mind me, I'm just practicing for a performance."

I smiled and carried on walking and listening to him in the background. When I got home, I told my husband, who had also heard the singing. We both thought that the United Church must be rocking on Sunday mornings to the

tunes of Neil Diamond and Chicago!

We continued to listen to Harry sing for a couple of weeks. It made me smile every time I heard him. Last weekend, I had a few friends who told me they were going to a dance at the Legion with a band they had never heard of and thought were from out of town.

They invited Jim and I to go, and normally we would, but we were attending a Celebration of Life for a friend and couldn't go. In the days following the dance, I have talked to a number of my friends who attended. It was a fundraiser for SIRCH.

I learned the dance was sold out and that people had a great night of dancing to all kinds of favourite rock and pop music. The perfect thing to be doing in the middle of February.

The 10 piece band, called Adverse Conditions, was from Haliburton, and Harry, the dog walking singer, was the lead singer.

What I had been listening to in the meadow was Harry rehearsing the songs that he was performing at that dance.

Adverse Conditions covers music by Neil Diamond, Chicago, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Michael Buble, Joe Cocker and more. I watched a few videos of the band that people posted on social media. They were having a great time.

Harry Morgan, Minister by Day, Rock and Roll singer by night. I'm sorry we missed the great event that supported SIRCH, but we will be there next time. And I look forward to hearing Harry rehearse out in the meadow for his next performance!

Tales from
the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

It behoofs us all

A WEEK OR so ago, my best buddy Tom called me and spoke with more enthusiasm than I have heard him exude in a long time.

"I have seen the light," he finally said.

Hearing these words is normally a good thing, unless you hear them uttered from inside of a dark railway tunnel. So, I asked him to elaborate further. Tom then explained that he had discovered something very interesting and unique on the Internet.

"I hear that train a-coming," I thought.

He then proceeded to tell me about an on-line experience that really fired his imagination, filled him with admiration, inspired him, and made him long for more.

Suffice it to say, he was not referring to my Instagram account.

Instead, my pal was describing a topic that even I had to concede was much more socially relevant. Tom had stumbled upon a YouTube Channel whose sole focus

was on the trimming of cow and bull hoofs. Not just any hoofs either. No, just the unhealthy, pus-filled kind.

To be clear, Tom is not a cattle or dairy farmer. And, as far as I know, he has never expressed an unhealthy interest in bovine hoofs.

He is, however, what I would refer to as a movie-snob. He is the kind of guy who will laugh at, and even tease you, for your taste in movies. His latest choice of Internet viewing, however, finally put it all in perspective.

Now, I fully understand why he hates all the movies I love. Not one of them has shown a scene where a pus-filled hoof gets trimmed.

The more interesting part is that my buddy is not alone in liking this YouTube channel. In fact, it has 1.8 million followers. And the content creator has made a lot of money off it.

I won't lie to you. I still don't understand the attraction that comes with watching videos that feature pus-filled cow hooves being trimmed. Go ahead, call me a weirdo.

When I mentioned this to Jenn though, she told me that this infatuation with gross things is just the tip of the iceberg. She informed me that the Internet is filled with celebrities like Doctor Pimple Popper who has, surprisingly enough, 7.7 million followers who love nothing better than to watch her pop pimples. Jenn also told me that there are entire Internet social media empires based on such popular pastimes as rug cleaning or stump removal, each with millions of followers.

Yes, the world is a wonderful and diverse place.

Here's the thing. All these on-line trends have passed me by. So, it turns out I wasn't as cool as I thought.

Even more painful, I was not sure about the hoof trimming website in terms of entertainment value. It just seemed like one of those horrible, gross things that people sometimes watch – like leadership debates and old men in Speedos, but slightly better. Then again, I was also fairly certain that I was judging something that I had not even given a chance.

So, just to prove I'm not close-minded, I decided to watch one of these hoof-trimming videos in order to see what I was missing. Approximately three dozen videos later, I could not, for the life of me, see what the attraction was.

And I even said as much in the comment section, right after I liked and subscribed.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

Haliburton recreation field, also known as the Cricket Field, the Fairgrounds, is now the site of several sporting venues, i.e., the Haliburton Arena (A.J. LaRue), the Haliburton Curling Club, and the Skateboard Park. It was part of Block C in the original Haliburton Village Plot. The property was obtained by the Municipality of Dysart in 1869 and set aside for a town hall and public use. This is only a partial view of the lot; the Town Hall is not shown, since it was to the left of the image. This photo, circa 1900, shows part of the field marked out for baseball and a game in progress. The variously dressed gentlemen in the foreground at left may be players; the players themselves on the field do not appear to be wearing any official looking uniforms. The scarred appearance of the field may be the remains of the former cricket pitch, which ran diagonally across the lot, due to the hollow in the property near the road. A portion of Mountain Str. can be seen at top left beside the fence; the Drag River flows along in the background. /Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Museum

letters to the editor

ODSP increase in income cap misses the mark

To the Editor,

Earlier this month, the Ontario government touted a win when it announced that recipients of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) could now earn more money from working, without their ODSP support being affected. But for Ontarians with the most severe disabilities, including amputees, it's status quo amidst the skyrocketing cost of living.

What the government misses completely is that amputees receiving ODSP simply cannot work – let alone work more – without the artificial arms or legs needed for basic tasks such as walking, dressing or holding objects. Thanks to outdated funding models from the Ontario government, these crucial artificial limbs are often impossible to afford for ODSP recipients, leaving amputees literally without a leg to stand on.

While Ontario's Assistive Devices Program

(ADP) states "75 per cent coverage" for artificial limbs, this coverage is based on outdated prosthetic costs. In reality, ADP covers only about 20 per cent of the cost of an artificial limb for the average Ontarian.

As a first step to alleviate this double whammy against amputees, ODSP must be increased to be on par with other provinces. At a maximum of \$1,228 per month, Ontario lags behind Quebec (\$1,463), BC (\$1,358) and Alberta (\$1,685). Better still, the government must recognize that this amount is well below the poverty line and provide a living wage to all persons with disabilities and increased coverage for artificial limbs – it's the least we owe to Ontario's most vulnerable and in need.

Annelise Petlock
Director of Advocacy for
The War Amps Ontario

Join Aging Together as Community

Saturday, Mar. 4, 1:30 to 4 p.m. at West Guilford Recreational Centre, 1061 Kennisis Lake Road, we will:

- regroup and review the outcomes of our incredibly productive Jan. 28 meeting and hear back from the small working groups.
- continue to build a community vision for 2023 setting goals and timelines.

Please share this information with young and old and bring a friend.

New participants are welcome.
Refreshments will be served.

Donations are gratefully appreciated.

Please register on our Facebook page: www.eventbrite.ca/e/aging-together-as-community-open-meeting-at-west-guilford-rec-centre-tickets-532365217697.

A virtual option is available for the meeting.
Zoom link: us02web.zoom.us/j/87400556234?pwd=TlF5MithSGpocVVwbldTZDUwemdqdz09https.

Submitted by Bonnie Roe

Finalists announced for restaurant makeover

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Staff Reporter

It's no secret that the number one industry in the area is tourism. That's why ACM Designs wants to start giving back to the community with their upcoming restaurant makeover contest.

"After the pandemic, we noticed that a lot of restaurants are still struggling financially," said Sophie Creelman, the marketing coordinator for ACM Designs Inc. "Between increased food costs, labour shortages, and closures, it's been a super bumpy road to recovery for them."

This was why they decided to launch the restaurant makeover campaign. Offering \$25,000 to the winner, the prize would cover all furnishings, paint, decor, chairs, flooring, and anything else the establishment would need for a fresh start. "Our whole purpose is giving back to the community," said Creelman.

The focus would be on the dining area of the restaurant, but Creelman said that oftentimes, when one space is completed, it results in a snowball effect across the rest of the facility. "Sometimes, people want to make changes in their space, but they just don't know where to start, so this project really kickstarts their next steps," she said.

While ACM provides the design work,



The Bonnie View in won ACM Designs' Lobby Makeover Contest in 2020. /Submitted

sourcing, and decor, Creelman noted that these types of projects are truly a community effort. She shared that the following businesses are offering their supplies and services to the restaurant makeover, free of charge:

- Emmerson Lumber
- Kegel Heating and Cooling
- Churko Electric
- Cordell Carpet

- Yours Outdoors
- Cambria
- Quartz Co Surface

"We wanted to use local resources to help a local restaurant," Creelman said, "this project would not be possible without our partners."

Back in 2020, ACM launched their lobby makeover contest for local accom-

modations. The winner was Bonnie View Inn, and the lobby was transformed over the next few years. "We gave our input about what exactly we needed to function, and ACM was able to do the rest," shared Ryan Yates, the director of operations at Bonnie View Inn.

Yates also noted that with the upgrades to the lobby, it allowed the team at Bonnie View to jump into renovations for the rest of the facility. "Now we had these ideas for the lounge and dining area as well, and we had a template to go off of based on the lobby design," he said.

Yates said that the best part of watching the lobby design come together was knowing that it was the product of many community partners. "It's amazing to know that different businesses all chip in to make it happen," he said. "It makes it so that it's not just our project, it belongs to the whole community."

The finalists for the restaurant makeover were announced on Feb. 27, and are Maple Avenue Tap and Grill, The Mill Pond Restaurant, and Truss Foodworks Smokehouse.

Voting will take place until March 19, at which point ACM and partners will dive in to get the restaurant ready for the summer season. To stay tuned for updates on the restaurant makeover, visit www.acm-designs.com

It's a small world; a focus on farm-to-table practices

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Staff Reporter

There's a shift happening in the way we see our food, and Andrea Salvatori and Thalia Nash are paving the way for these changes in our community.

The two recently presented a film called *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* on Feb. 10 at the Fish Hatchery. The event was entry by donation, with all proceeds being split between the Hatchery and the Minden Community Food Bank - Community

Gardens start-up.

The documentary film focused on the life and legacy of Vandana Shiva. Shiva is a scientist, activist, author, and philosopher who has dedicated her life to bringing awareness to the health of the planet.

"Vanadana's strong voice advocates to keep the weight of power with small farmers by promoting local as opposed to large corporations involvement in agriculture," said Salvatori, "[she] connects a wide variety of life concepts together, always circling back to self sustainability,



Thalia Nash and Andrea Salvatori shared their passion for sustainable farming during a viewing of the documentary *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* on Feb. 10 at the Fish Hatchery. /Photo submitted

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food, water and soil health."

The crux of the documentary is the holistic approach to anti-GMO farming, which promotes health and sustainability for all living creatures.

Salvatori and Nash are no strangers to the subject. Both share a background in health sciences, with Salvatori as a natural nutrition clinical practitioner and the owner of Root to Sun Nutrition, and Nash as a registered practical nurse. The duo have a mutual interest in farming from the land. "We have a lot of overlapping interests," they told the *Echo*, "the largest one being the health of our soil which leads to nutrient dense foods." They shared that some of these interests also include living off-grid, homestead farming, and organic practices applied to a multitude of experiences.

They agree that *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* documentary has had a ripple effect on the natural farming world as a whole. "The interesting thing about this documentary is its ability to depict the evolutionary history of agriculture and the by-products that it has created," they said. "It is eye opening and inspiring to see what she has been able to accomplish in changing history for the better."

Exploring hyper-local alternatives to food production and consumption are a key takeaway on the viewing of the film. Together, Nash and Salvatori provided viewers with a list of nine different Haliburton County-based farmers who revolve their practices around sustainability, as well as a handful of local businesses and restaurants who utilize the farm-to-table mentality.

The duo hope that the powerful voice that was articulated by Shiva throughout the documentary will inspire local farmers to dive into sustainable practices, and residents of Haliburton County to take an interest in where their food comes from. "A healthy environment, and healthy food directly connects to our health as humans," Salvatori said. "Some questions to ask yourself: Is your food laden with pesticides and herbicides? How healthy is the soil your food was grown in? How clean is the water that sustains your food? Buying local food gives you the opportunity to ask your farmers these questions."

They shared that the success of the film has sparked an interest in the topic, and they hope to have a second viewing soon, for all those curious about learning more.

For a full list of local farmers to support, visit www.harvesthaliburton.com/farm-gate-sales.html.

Plant and flower shop blossoms downtown

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Two weeks in to opening her doors in Haliburton, Gillian Taylor said she's overwhelmed with the amount of support she's received and the love shown for her business, Snaffle and Mane.

The horse and plant lover moved her six-year-old business to its very first storefront in Unit 5 of 83 Maple Avenue following the move of Mixtape Vintage to Highland Street just before Valentine's Day.

"I didn't realize how many people were so excited for a store like this. It's been so good chatting with people. Sharing the love of plants has been really amazing," Taylor said to the *Echo* after spending time chatting with customers.

The downstairs storefront with plenty of natural light is already blooming with emerald succulents in unique pots, beautiful fresh cut flowers, and dried greenery.

Taylor explained that she wanted the name for the store to be as playful as her own personality and to allow room for the business to grow in the future.

The long-time equestrian said, "The name came from a stamp my friend brought me back from New York, and it was super cool, and when I was looking for a logo, it just seemed like a no-brainer. I based the name of the company off that. I knew it had to be something horsey. It just came together."

A snaffle is the bit of a horse's bridle.

"I don't think it necessarily has to be 'plant and flower shop' words. I'd rather be 'plant and flower shop' words. I'd rather be playful," Taylor said. "Then, if the



Owner of Snaffle and Mane, Gillian Taylor, recently opened the doors to her first physical storefront for the business on Maple Avenue in Haliburton. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

company expands down the road, I don't have to worry about only doing plant and flower stuff because that's what the name dictates. It's kind of a nice way to branch out and leave it open-ended."

Snaffle and Mane was born around the same time Taylor made the move north from her condo in downtown Toronto six years ago.

"I had a condo in the city that I started renting out, and I just starting living full-time up here. I built a greenhouse and just started growing as much as I could," she said.

Moving her life from downtown Toronto up to a property in Maynooth was a huge change in lifestyle.

Taylor now lives with her mother in Haliburton and said, "COVID hit, and I just ended up staying there with her. It's been the perfect situation because we're both horse people."

She grows her succulents in the basement in the winter and expands her operation to the lakeshore in the warmer months.

"It's a lot of work, but I've now figured out my routine."

With plants and flowers, she enjoys perfectly crafting orders to cater to individual aesthetics while also offering "grab and go" options.

"I'm a collector, so if someone is looking for something specific, I'll try and find it for them," Taylor said.

Like her business name, she doesn't want Snaffle and Mane to be restricted in any way, and said there is room for growth in the future.

"I really like it here. The light's amazing, the visibility's great, but if I need to also expand to a warehouse five or ten years into the future, I will do that," Taylor said.

When asked how her first Valentine's Day operating a flower shop went, she replied, "It was bananas! Not a lot of people knew I was here yet, so I was really fortunate. I opened the weekend before."

She's still working on details like signage and putting aspects of the store together, but is excited to try new things.

"Weddings, events, working with cool people in the community to give people what they want in terms of bringing in some greenery or flowers is the goal. There are other options, I'm just different. And people seem to be really excited about that which I'm so grateful for," Taylor said.

You can find Snaffle and Mane on Facebook, Instagram @snaffleandmane, and online at snaffleandmane.com. They can be reached at 416-301-3421.

The store is open Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A cursed tale

Keith Ross Leckie, a scriptwriter, novelist, and film director captivated his audience by speaking about his book, *Cursed! The Blood of the Donnelly's*, which is about the massacre of the Donnelly family in 1880 in Lucan, Ontario for the February Yours Outdoors Speaker Series presentation held at the HHOA Fish Hatchery on Wednesday, Feb. 8. For each presentation, a portion of the proceeds are donated to a local charitable organization. The proceeds were donated to the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library from Ross Leckie's presentation. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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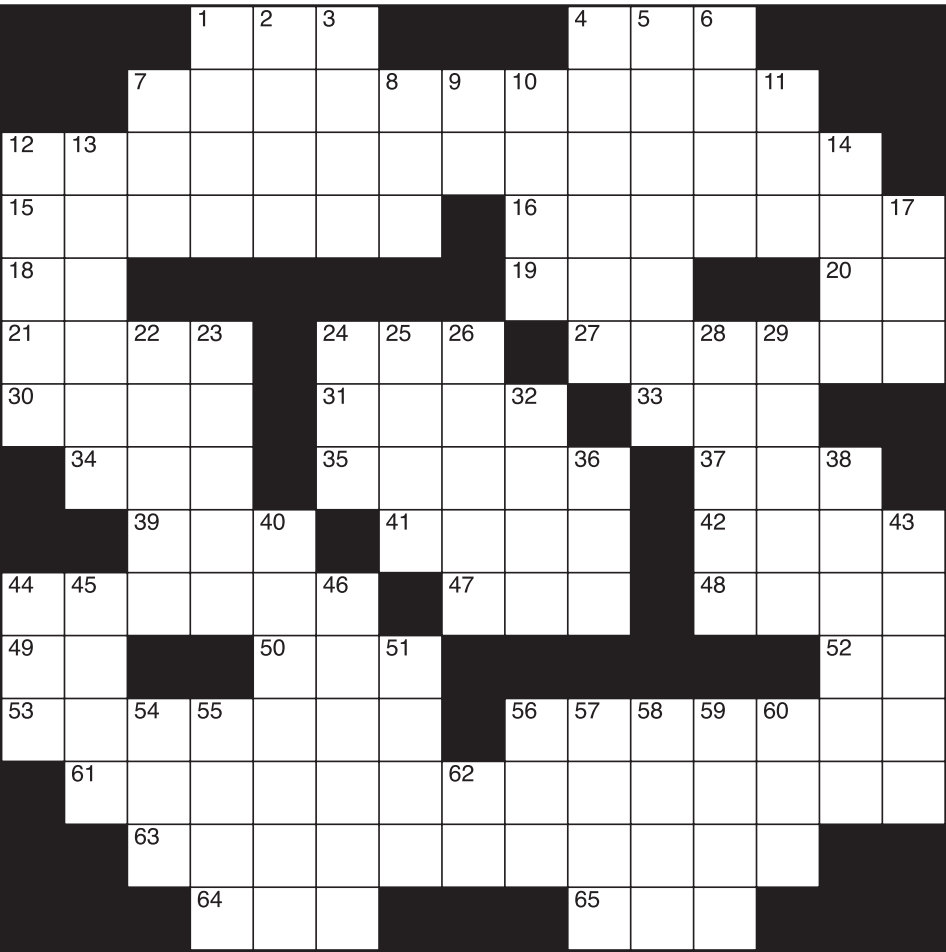
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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Relaxing place
 - 4. Plant by scattering
 - 7. A type of explorer
 - 12. Unique traits
 - 15. Lady
 - 16. Dismayed
 - 18. Railway
 - 19. Type of whale
 - 20. Sodium
 - 21. Manning and Lilly are two
 - 24. Where golfers begin
 - 27. Entrapped
 - 30. Influential punk artist
 - 31. Hebrew calendar month
 - 33. Car mechanics group
 - 34. Undesirable rodent
 - 35. Minneapolis suburb
 - 37. Witch
 - 39. Get free of
 - 41. A written proposal or reminder
 - 42. British School
 - 44. Country on west coast of Africa
 - 47. Cool!
 - 48. Information
 - 49. ___ route
 - 50. Jim Nantz's network
 - 52. Something to register (abbr.)
 - 53. Give cards incorrectly
 - 56. One who's learning on the job
 - 61. Stevenson adventure novel
 - 63. Taking careful notice
 - 64. CNN's founder
 - 65. Speak badly of
- CLUES DOWN

 - 1. A person with unusual powers of fore-sight
 - 2. Single sheet of glass
 - 3. Portrays a character
4. Expresses happiness

5. Acquires

6. "The Martian" author

7. Degree

8. 60-minute intervals

9. A detective's pal

10. Group of nations (abbr.)

11. Popular Georgia rockers

12. Fencing swords

13. Basement

14. Samoan monetary unit

17. Male parent

22. Finnish lake

23. A smooth fabric

24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

26. Very willing

28. Expressed pleasure

29. Lasso

32. Hindu model of ideal man

36. Move your head in approval

38. Ill-__: gained illegally

40. Die

43. Accused publicly

44. Precious stone

45. Individual thing or person

46. Behaved in a way that degraded

51. Derogatory term

54. No seats available

55. Liability

56. Popular beverage

57. Tough outer skin of fruit

58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)

59. Troubles

60. Negative

62. Camper

Answers on page 12



An Adult Education graduate and her daughter, a Kindergarten graduate, wearing the dresses they found for their special day. /Photo by Chantel Smith

A decade of making dreams come true

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE
Special to the Echo

Ten years ago, Lochlin resident Jenn Abbott donated a prom dress to a local youth looking for one, and it sparked an idea for something bigger.

"That's how it started – I loved the idea. I got the ball rolling and created a name and a Facebook page, and it kind of exploded from there," she said.

Make Dreams Come True is a volunteer service run out of Abbott's home that offers free clothing and accessories to graduating students needing formal wear.

The dresses, suits and accessories (including shoes, jewelry, belts and hats) are available to Grade 8, Grade 12, and Adult Education students from Haliburton County who need them for graduation, prom, or semi-formal.

The homeschooling mother of four estimates that she gets requests from between 15-20 students per year, and that numbers have been climbing as clothing and transportation costs increase.

"People don't want to go out and buy a suit or dress they might only wear once or twice," she said. "There's a lot of need for it. It's hard to go grad shopping because there's nothing up here, and people have to travel, and it's expensive."

"It's been going strong. We're now in our tenth year."

In the past, Abbott set up the service in local community centres and service clubs as a one-day event where people could visit to donate or pick up dresses and suits. She now runs the service from her home in Lochlin.

"Since Covid, and because I'm a one man show, we do it differently," said Abbott. "I start pulling out everything

from storage in March and April. The second people can get me their colour and size, and the specifics of what they're looking for, I go through what I have and there might be five options in the bag. Whatever outfits they choose not to keep, they bring back."

The Make Dreams Come True service offers a free goody bag that includes jewellery, makeup and sunglasses, and a free 25-minute family photo session with Chantal Smith, who has provided photography services since the initiative started ten years ago. Abbott also arranges for students to get their nails and hair done with participating local businesses.

She said students usually find what they want because of the large variety of donated materials in her storage – around 1000 dresses, suits, and shoes. Some of the donations are unused, with price tags attached. Alterations can be arranged at a cost.

Abbott said the service is only possible thanks to the donations of products and services by businesses and individuals.

"This is community giving back to the community. Without businesses and individuals donating their time and doing the things that they do, it wouldn't be possible."

Abbott accepts clothing and accessory donations in good, clean condition any time of year and welcomes donations from individuals living outside the County.

She urges interested students and parents to contact her as soon as they know their clothing preferences so she can go through the options in her inventory.

Donors, parents and students can contact her through the Make Dreams Come True Facebook page, or text her at 705-286-0906.

Grace Victoria Kent was one of the first babies to be born in Haliburton County in 2023. /Submitted



Johnna Kent and Brady Kent welcomed their second daughter, Grace, to the world on Jan. 18, 2023 at home in Haliburton. They are pictured with Grace and their two-year-old, Ava-May. /Photo submitted

Brought into the world for the New Year

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Grace Victoria Kent was born on Jan. 18, 2023; one of the first to be born with the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft in 2023.

Her mom, Johnna Kent, and dad, Brady Kent, were "born and raised" in Haliburton County.

With Brady from Minden originally and Johnna from Haliburton, the couple met in high school.

The two met in 2010, graduated HHSS in 2011, and were engaged by 2016. They were high school sweethearts at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and got married in 2019.

"We've been together ever since we started dating," Johnna said.

Johnna works for Haliburton Highlands Health Services as a personal support worker, and Brady is a heavy equipment operator and landscaper.

"We both always wanted to raise kids here. Having grown up here, we knew it would be a good place to

raise kids. Brady and I love hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. He's just starting to get our two-year-old out snowmobiling, and she absolutely loves it," Johnna said.

The pair had their now two-year-old, Ava-May, in 2020.

"My crazy two-year-old..." laughed Johnna. "She was born September 30, 2020. She's a pandemic baby. She keeps us on our toes."

Johnna said having her first child during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge.

"There was nothing to do. Luckily my other friend had a baby too, so we hung out together."

For both of Johnna's births, she used the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft throughout her pregnancy, but had Ava-May in a hospital setting.

Grace was born at home.

"It was a totally different experience this time," Johnna said. "I knew I wanted to try a home birth, and the midwives were so great."

Although Grace is just over a month old now, it's clear to Johnna and Brady she has a much different personality than her sister.

"She's definitely not like her sister. She more calm and

relaxed for sure."

"It's hard adjusting to two, but we've been getting into a routine. Ava is a great helper, she helps a lot. Sometimes too much," Johnna laughed.

Johnna is now on an 18-month leave to spend time with Grace and Ava-May.



Notice

(Applicant - CRUMP/CAMPBELL-CRUMP)

In the matter of the Municipal Act and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Buckskin Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 32, Concession 7, Township of Monmouth, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan of Survey 19R-10706, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed September 10, 2021.**

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 21st day of February, 2023.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
705-448-2981

Well wishes for the Huskies

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper

754-2278

It was a memorable day on Feb. 13 for many of the Guilford population. It was etched in our minds as the time of the visitation at the Haliburton Funeral Home for David Bain. For two hours David's wife Janet stood to shake hands, or hug and greet, all of the two hundred and some people who lined up to pay their respects to the one loved so dearly by so many. They included Bains, of course, Bernard and Ron, and in-laws, Sissons, Stamps, many of the ones David had worked with for Barry Boice, and the people close by at the Park Lane apartments. Again, my heartfelt sadness for the grief felt by so many in David's passing.

News of the Haliburton Huskies who practice at the SG Nesbitt Arena in Minden has reached me that this team has made the play-offs in the Ontario Junior Hockey League. Beginning in March they go on to the next level. The three players billeted in the Guilford area are Luca Rea number 11, Jack Staniland, number 22, and Alex Cunningham number 91. These are informally known as the West G Boys and they click as chums as well as on the ice. We wish them luck as the Haliburton

Huskies skate on in the play-offs.

On Thursday, Feb. 16, the Haliburton Society welcomed Major Tony Keene (retired) of the Monarchist league of Canada as the speaker of the monthly meeting at the Haliburton Museum. We heard his enlightening view on the future of the constitutional monarchy in Canada. As a veteran of 43 years in the military his insight on various international issues was most informative on many aspects. High school and cadets would have been enthralled.



Notice of Sewage Service Rates By-Law Amendments
Dysart et al Council, at their March 14, 2023 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2022-25, being a by-law to impose fees and charges for the provision of Communal Sewage Services. This amendment will increase the Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) user fee and the metered Sewage Service Rate effective April 1, 2023.

Further information on these fee changes will be available on <https://www.dysartetal.ca/>.

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk



Huskies take the hit of two losses

The Haliburton County Huskies faced two tough losses on the weekend against the Toronto Junior Canadiens on Saturday, Feb. 25 and the Milton Menace team on Sunday, Feb. 26. Forward Boyd Stahlbaum gets ready to take a shot on net during the Huskies' game against the Junior Canadiens. The game ended in a 7-1 loss for the Haliburton team and a 6-4 loss against the Menace on Sunday. The Saturday game was riddled with penalties and misconducts for both teams, resulting in 24 infractions and a total of 102 penalty minutes for the Huskies and 17 infractions and 71 penalty minutes for the Junior Canadiens. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Huskies forward Sam Solarino high fives his teammates on the bench after scoring the only goal for the team on Saturday, Jan. 25 during their game against the Toronto Junior Canadiens at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.



Huskies forward Luca Rea gets ready to take a shot on the Toronto Junior Canadiens net during the third period of the game.



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BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

SIRCH Community Services is a charitable organization in Haliburton County with a focus on poverty reduction, food security and community connection. Known for innovation and the ability to pivot, SIRCH has a variety of programs and social enterprises that contribute to community health.

We are looking for a new board member to join our team.
Here's what the current board members have to say:

"As someone who genuinely believes in empowering others to take care of themselves, I joined the SIRCH board in order to do just that. Serving this organisation, which works relentlessly to better the social and economic reality of our community, is a privilege." (Petra Hamann)

"I am blessed to be a part of an organization that cares so deeply about the needs of our community and 'SIRCHes' for ways to alleviate hunger and unemployment, alternatives for waste management, and so much more." (Barb Fawcett)

"After retiring, I volunteered with SIRCH in the School's Cool, CAPC/CPNP and Community Kitchen programs. When I saw the opportunity to become a SIRCH Board member, I knew I was ready to become more involved in all that SIRCH does. I now have a greater understanding of how SIRCH continually pivots to meet the needs of our community and I am grateful that I have a voice in helping so many." (Lynn McGillivray)

"People helping people is the hallmark of a compassionate and caring community. As a member of the Board of Directors, I feel privileged to be a part of an organization which lives out this mandate through creating resilience, reducing poverty, encouraging connection." (Marc Beisheim)

Join our Board team. For more information contact
Barbara Fawcett fawcett.barbara@gmail.com or Gena Robertson at info@sirch.on.ca
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650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of **Marjorie Winnifred Windover**

Peacefully at Fenelon Court LTC or the Lodge as I would fondly call it, I continued my journey from earth on Sunday, January 29, 2023, surrounded by the presence of my family. I want to take this opportunity to say good-bye to my loving family, dear friends and my Minden Community.

I am predeceased by my husband Roy (January 25, 2005) and by our son Peter (January 21, 2017). I am loved by my daughter Pamela and her husband Rick Dunsford of Fenelon Falls. I'm the loving Grams to Kris (Dianne), Kevin (Thera), Jocelyn (Joe), Jeffery (Emily) and (great- grandmother) GG to Ethan, Nathan, Connor, MacKay, Rubena, Evelyn, Ella and Zachary. I cherished our relationships and hope I've encouraged you to be your best.

I was born March 25, 1928 to Rubena (nee Thomas) and George MacKay of Hindon Hill. My siblings being sister Ethel and brother George. I'm grateful to have reached my 95th year and attribute it to motto's like these: "PMA " Positive Mental Attitude, " Nothing is as bad as it could be Worse ", " Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and lastly " 1 - 2 - 3 Happy Days".

People whom influenced me and I hope I influenced them are the PSW's, nurses and Dr's who provided care for me in Minden at the farmhouse and the last four years at Fenelon Court LTC in Fenelon Falls.

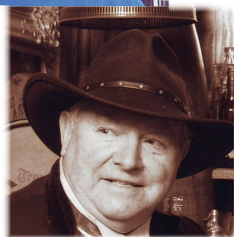
My family invites you to gather at the Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden K0M 2K0 on Friday, March 10th, 2023 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate My Life at 1:00 pm. Following the service you are invited to a Reception at the Church Hall downstairs.

My immediate family will hold my internment at Minden Cemetery on Friday, June 16, 2023.

Memorial Donations to the Parkinson's Foundation or to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of **Fredrick James Simmons**

Jan 12, 1944 - Feb 23, 2023

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Fred on Feb 23, 2023. He passed quietly with his wife, Carol by his side. Family left to mourn is Monica (Tim) Keefer and Troy Miles; grandsons Ethan & Dylan Keefer; brothers Tom (Sandra), George (Glenda), Barry (Maxine) and oodles of nieces & nephews. The hunting buddies, Mother-in-law Pat Miller, Brother-in-law Rick (Diane) Lichty and sister-in-law Carla (Steve) Stewart will miss the man immensely. Predeceased by brothers Murray (2019) and

Perry (1989), parents George (1993) & Grace (1982) Simmons. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be when the weather is much warmer. If you feel inclined to send an expression of sympathy, consider donating to the B.L.C.D. (Irondale's historical society of which Fred was a director). These can be e transfers to historical@IrondaleOntario.ca or cheques mailed to Box 113 Irondale, Ontario K0M 1X0 or donate to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation www.hhhs.ca/foundation. Fred's family appreciates any and all sentiments.

Carol Simmons



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650 OBITUARIES



Charles "Bruce" Caves (Bruce Cave) age 81
Peacefully in his sleep on the morning of February 22, 2023, due to ongoing medical issues. He was born April 26, 1941, in the small town of Streetsville Ontario to his father Charles, and mother Viola. In 1963 he married his high school sweetheart Sandra Mae Caves and they began their lives together.

Bruce had a passion for three things in life; family, friends, and music. These three passions could frequently be found together creating memories on Redstone lake at the family cottage and around the campfire. It was also common to find Bruce, his family, and his friend snowmobiling through the Haliburton highlands during the winter seasons settling after a long day's ride to warm up, play cards and listen to some John Denver or Charley Pride.

Music was always in his life and he enjoyed writing and playing music with many folks over the year but more recently in the town of Haliburton as a supporting role with a number of local talents and entertainers such as Gord Kidd & Friends.

Bruce (Pupup) was also a proud grandfather, who loved watching his two grandchildren, Chantal and Cody grow and develop into amazing young adults.

Helping people was part of Bruce's character and after spending time as an auto mechanic and police officer, he settled into a long and rewarding career as a fire fighter on the Mississauga Fire Department helping and supporting the community.

Bruce is survived by his wife Sandra Caves, his eldest son Carl Caves, his youngest son Brad Caves and his wife Josee Lacasse-Caves, and finally by his two grandchildren Cody Caves and Chantal Caves. All of who he loved deeply and was very proud of.

Please join us to celebrate his life at the beginning of May in the Mississauga area. The location and time will be shared once confirmed. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 99

No. 27

Wednesday, March 4, 1981

"The voice of the Highlands"

14 pages

25 cents

Churches open concern centre in Haliburton

Area churches have joined hands and pulled together to open a Community Christian Concern Centre in Haliburton Village.

Seven churches have banded together to open the centre in a house on the main street, across from the Good Medical Centre. Saturday, the new centre held an open house and shower in hopes of receiving some necessary items. The churches have set up the house to provide a senior citizen's room, teen centre, counselling room and chapel. A front room has been rented to Master's Christian Book Store. Participating churches are West Guilford Gospel Chapel, Lakeside Baptist Church, Full Gospel

Cont'd. page 2

Guild to hire first curator

Although it isn't official yet, The Guild of Fine Arts and the county board of education have chosen a person who is qualified for the position of curator for the Rails' End Gallery.

Temporary curator Carol Finn and board of education representative Len Salvatori confirmed Tuesday that a successful applicant has been chosen.

However, the decision to hire the successful applicant will not become official until the board of education approves the hiring which it is expected to do its next meeting, March 17.

If the committee's choice is approved, duties won't commence until the first of July although the successful curator also met the board's needs.

Although the board had two representatives, Doug Devlin, principal of Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School and Gerald Irish vice-principal of HHSES sitting on the hiring committee, a final decision from board members is needed to ratify the hiring committee's recommendation.

According to Finn, the committee's selected curator is highly qualified for both the board's and the guild's needs.



First time you've heard of a shower for a building, well it's the first time Haliburton Village has had a Community Christian Concern Centre. Accepting the gifts on Saturday were Rev. John James, Pastor

Mervyn Kurtz, Rev. John Smith, Betty Smith and Byron Bain. The centre is located on main street across from the Good Medical Centre.

Minden considering meters

Anson, Hindon and Minden council might consider initiating a water consumption meter system in the future to make the system fairer.

During discussion with two representatives of MacGillivray and Company, Peter Carroll and Bob Huisman, reeve Lloyd Walker asked Carroll's opinion on the metering systems.

Carroll suggested council would have to undertake a cost-benefit survey before setting up a metering system. "My first feeling is it might

cost you more, but it will be fairer to the user," Carroll said.

"If we could afford it, I'd like to do a complete meter deal. I think it would pay off in the end," Walker said.

Clerk Elinor Burke said the most recent price the municipality had received was \$140 per meter with purchases

over 100 bringing the price down to \$100 per meter plus one hour to install the device. "I think meters are fair, councillor Lyle McKnight commented, but added he was concerned, "when you start talking \$100 a meter for 100 meters."

Carroll suggested if a meter system was to be implemented council might consider metering only commercial property first.

Clerk Elinor Burke suggested a survey of the water users might discover the feelings of the community.

Council made no formal decision.

By the end of 1980, Carroll

According to Carroll, the unconditional grants are given to the municipality to be used by any department which is in need. However in the past neither the water nor sewer systems have taken a share of the grants, Carroll said.

By the end of 1980, Carroll

Haliburton County council will be asked to join Victoria, Peterborough and Northum-

berland Counties in pressing the federal government for assistance from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

Wardens of the four counties as well as representatives of the City of Peterborough, met last week to discuss the idea of presenting a united front on the need for a DREE agreement that would cover the whole area.

Haliburton County Warden Murray Fearney said no formal decision on the matter was taken at the meeting, but that the wardens agreed the matter should be taken back to their councils.

Fearney said in an interview Tuesday that he told the meeting Haliburton's needs were clearly different from those of the other counties, and that any joint effort would have to acknowledge the county's special needs.

For centuries, fire has fascinated man. And for centuries, it has terrified him. A crackling fire burning cheerily in a fireplace often adds a touch of coziness to a home. But those same comforting flames can cause total destruction when carelessness leads to a chimney fire.

With wood burning becoming more popular in the past two or three winters, the incidence of chimney fires has increased dramatically throughout the county. But volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to help in any emergency.

If suddenly your chimney is roaring and red glowing sparks are shooting out into the air, don't hesitate to call the fire department. As chief Howard Roberts says, Roberts remembers one

call from a man who said, "my chimney's on fire, it's only a chimney fire. I hate to phone, but we went down. In one place where the chimney wasn't installed properly it was already burning into the wood around the chimney," Roberts said.

As Roberts has come to know over his years on the fire department, poor installation can present a great danger to a house if a chimney catches fire. Usually the fire department responds to the fire call but doesn't act unless the chimney fire has spread through the house.

"If you have a good chimney and it burns out there's absolutely no damage done to it at all," Roberts said. "We just let them burn out. We stay there, of course, and their chimney's clean when we leave. If we put them out with water you stand a chance of breaking the tile inside the

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The real danger, however, comes not from the chimney fire itself, but rather from the domino effect it can create when combustible materials are located near the chimney.

While new pre-fabricated chimneys are an improvement over the old masonry types, Roberts said poor installation can make them just as dangerous.

"Not many of those old, really dangerous chimneys are left. But some of the chimneys, what's called a class A chimney, are not installed properly." In that case, Roberts said, "They're quite dangerous."

Don Barker of Stanhope, a heating specialist, agrees with Roberts that manufactured chimneys can be dangerous if installed too close to

rafters, joists, walls or any combustible material.

Barker said the rules to follow during installation are set out in Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Heating with Wood Safely handbook.

Roberts also applauds the book, saying the restrictions and clearances, if adhered to, can make wood burning safe.

Although the effects from poor installation of a chimney can be serious, they are not the cause of a chimney fire. Creosote build-up in the pipes causes the actual fire, Roberts said. One of the biggest culprits in the build-up of creosote is the use of air-tight wood stoves.

"Years ago, everybody burned wood here, but they

didn't have the airtight stoves. They had chimney fires, of course, but now, with the air-tight stoves, chimneys are much more prone to build-up (of creosote)," Roberts explained.

The air-tight's one saving grace in the event of a chimney fire is that drafts can be shut, cutting off oxygen which feeds the fire in the

restrict the heat in the chimney, resulting in a greater, more rapid creosote build-up.

"Back in the old days, a wood stove, although it had a damper on it, burned with a great heat intensity and the creosote was never really allowed to form on the chimney," Gorton said.

Once a chimney fire burns itself out, Gorton said any damage will be more obvious in a factory-built chimney than in a traditional masonry chimney.

"As far as a chimney fire goes, they would stand up comparably to a masonry chimney. Any damage that is caused by a chimney fire is more obvious in a factory-built chimney. The inner flue itself would buckle and warp with the intense chimney fire," Gorton said.

And it must be an extreme

Cont'd. page 2

Council considers way to reduce deficit

Minden water consumers could face rate increase

by Sue Cooper

Minden water users may be facing another hike in their water rates if council puts into effect recommendations made by auditors at its regular meeting, last Wednesday.

Two representatives of MacGillivray and Company, Peter Carroll and Bob Huisman, responded to council's request by outlining proposals that might help pay for the water and sewer systems, which have been a burden to the municipality.

The recommendations presented to council included allocating unconditional grants to both of the systems, raising the water system rates approximately 25 per cent, and asking the provincial government to reconsider its costing arrangement for the extension along the Highway 35 by-pass.

While some questions are still left unanswered, particularly the costing arrangements worked out by the Ministry of the Environment, Carroll was able to explain the unconditional grant system and how it might improve the water system's balance sheets.

According to Carroll, the unconditional grants are given to the municipality to be used by any department which is in need. However in the past neither the water nor sewer systems have taken a share of the grants, Carroll said.

By the end of 1980, Carroll

estimated the water system's deficit would sit at \$41,000 but if the unconditional grants from 1978, 1979 and 1980 amounting to \$17,000 were re-routed through the water account, the deficit would stand at \$24,000 for the end of 1980, Carroll said.

Council could take the retroactive unconditional grants from the general purpose account as a "catching up" measure, Carroll explained.

Although exact figures are not yet available for 1981, Carroll suggested after "do-

ing a fair bit of estimating and good guessing," that 1981 would produce a \$20,000 deficit. With the unconditional grants from the present year and by raising the water rates by 25 per cent, the year could balance, Carroll said.

For 1981, the unconditional grant amounts to \$12,000 and rate increase would raise the remaining \$8,000 for the year.

"If you raised your water rates by 25 per cent you'd have your \$8,000 and you would balance out for the year," Carroll explained to

council members. Even if council opts to raise the rates 25 per cent, the \$24,000, 1980 deficit as well as a \$15,000 for the extension along highway 35 will still be on the municipality's books, Carroll said.

As well as re-arranging the unconditional grants, Carroll suggested the municipality meet with the Ministry of the Environment to discuss the extension along the by-pass.

Carroll said it appears the ministry's formula for setting the frontage charges along

Cont'd. page 2

Police protection not priority, delegation discovers

County stymied on patrols bid

Haliburton County will not have 24 hour police patrols until the government of Ontario lifts its freeze on OPP manpower, Haliburton County council has learned.

At a meeting with a representative of the province's solicitor general last week, a committee of council was told that the force will remain frozen at 4000 men until the government gives police protection a higher priority.

County warden Murray Fearney, who led a delegation consisting of Monmouth reeve Keith Tallman, Stanhope reeve Jim Harrison and Anson, Hindon and Minden reeve Lloyd Walker, said Tuesday that the group was "not successful in arguing the need for extra officers for

the Minden detachment."

Since 1975, the OPP strength has been frozen at 4000 men, and unless the provincial cabinet opts to lift the freeze, detachments across the province will have to operate with their present

Cont'd. page 2

A breakdown could mean strike, lockout

Conciliation set for dispute

The contract dispute between Haliburton County council and its roads department employees will go to conciliation on Tuesday, March 24.

Talks aimed at reaching a 1981 contract broke down in January following a single meeting at which the two

sides were far apart.

If the conciliation is unsuccessful, a 'no board' report will be tabled, leaving the workers in a legal strike position 21 days later.

Council would also have the option of locking out the workers 21 days after a no board report is brought down.



Construction is underway at the new Gooderham Community Centre with workmen taking advantage of the latter part of last week to work in

the unseasonal weather. At the left the preliminary shape of the rock storage area for the centre's solar heating system can be seen.

Chimney fires: Wood heating can lead to tragedy if chimneys are improperly installed and not cleaned, experts warn

by Sue Cooper

For centuries, fire has fascinated man. And for centuries, it has terrified him. A crackling fire burning cheerily in a fireplace often adds a touch of coziness to a home. But those same comforting flames can cause total destruction when carelessness leads to a chimney fire.

With wood burning becoming more popular in the past two or three winters, the incidence of chimney fires has increased dramatically throughout the county. But volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to help in any emergency.

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